Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There was a time when it was 14 annas. It went down just about 2 years ago. But before that, there were many years in which it was 14 annas.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will Government be pleased to consider anew the scheme put forward in this question to prevent cattle trespass?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* We have already considered these and orders were passed very recently, and if you want that we must still consider them, we will see to it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Is there any method to prevent damage by birds?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is very difficult and impracticable.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planter):* Is there no method of preventing trespas by domestic birds ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If anything is suggested we will consider. To have cages, it is impossible.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Then simply give us power to eat them. I am very serious.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I am also serious. The question of having cages was the only thing that suggested itself to us. It is impossible.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* With regard to that last answer Sir, namely that if you suggest anything we will consider, it is not expected from the Government. Could not the Government think of something themselves ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* We thought of cages. That was found to be rather difficult.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* May I point out to the Hon'ble Member for Revenue that these Europeans who bring and grow domestic birds here always feed them and maintain them in their own runs. Are the Government aware of that ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. V. J. Mathai *(Planters):* Will you prohibit the rearing of domestic birds in their foul runs? This is a matter which you have to copy from them. I am suggesting a remedy.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* In view of the domestic Indian birds, the suggestion is not practicable.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether it is difficult in the case of ducks ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peisekar):* "Domestic birds" are the words used.

GROW MORE FOOD CAMPAIGN—LEASES UNDER

56. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Vadakkancheri):* Will Government be pleased to state,—

(*a*) what is the extent of land for which leases were taken from parties up to date under the "grow more food" campaign of Government;

(*b*) are all the lands in (*a*) now under cultivation ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* (*a*) Lease deeds have been taken for an extent of 6,655·36 acres up to the end of Edavam 1118.

(*b*) No definite answer can be given now as no systematic inspection of the lands leased has been conducted to find out the exact acreage actually cultivated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I know, Sir, whether any portion out of this 6,655 acres taken on lease last year is lying fallow now?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The answer to this is implied in the answer already given. We have not conducted a systematic survey.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* In such cases, if there are lands taken on leases but not cultivated, will the Government be pleased to cancel the lease and give them to persons who are prepared to cultivate them ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There is absolutely no objection for that.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will the Government be pleased to extend this principle to lands previously taken by various parties and to a very large extent left uncultivated ?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If you are meaning patta lands and not leased lands, then of course we have another provision. This aspect was also then considered.

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We thought that it was not practicable, and it will be hard. We have got another system introduced by which we levy 25 times the ordinary assessment for having left any land fallow, and notices have been issued to those persons calling upon them to show cause why this penalty should not be levied on them in cases in which according to the survey conducted, it will be found that these lands are left uncultivated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Roughly what is the extent of those lands assigned to the parties who have left them fallow for which you propose this alternative punishment to levy 25 times the ordinary assessment? Now it has been stated by the Government that notices have been sent? Therefore, you must be in possession of the approximate extent of such lands. Will that be disclosed?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* I have not got the figure just now.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Will it not be Sir, over many thousands of acres?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No, no, it won't. The first thing is we have not got figures from all the Taluks. Some of the figures that were submitted were incorrect and inconsistent with the figures we had already obtained. Therefore, we have sent them back to the Tahsildars to correct those figures. That is the difficulty. I have not got any figures now.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* May I now enquire of the Government whether they will be prepared to whip up the machinery to collect all the information?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Certainly we will do it.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* If whips are applied, the information could have been got of large extent of land taken on lease and left uncultivated and not given to persons who are prepared to cultivate them. That is a very sorrowful sight that we come across when we travel along the country?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The seriousness of the matter has been considered and considered from 1117, and from then steps are being taken. Leases have been given. We have issued orders. But the exhaustive list has to be prepared by the Revenue Department. You know the work of the Revenue Department has tremendously increased, and the ordinary staff is unable to cope with the work, because more and more urgent work is given to them.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* This has been the slogan, Sir, always whenever an important work is entrusted to the Government, to say that the work has increased. Find out a remedy for coping with the work. May I know whether there is any case in which this penalty has been levied?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The time has not yet come for it, because the orders were passed about 2 or 3 months ago or somewhere about that. The lists have been prepared and notices have been issued. So it has not been possible to consider any case and then dispose of it.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Nellayi):* Have the Government received complaints that pattamchits from those to whom these lands were not leased or they were not in possession of those lands.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Pattamchits are taken only from those in possession. Some of them happened to be persons to whom leases were not sanctioned. Persons entered upon lands, and encroached upon them as soon as the idea of leasing the lands was made known. Those persons who are in occupation do not in many cases happen to coincide with those to whom leases have been sanctioned. But leases have been taken only from those in actual possession in cases in which they differ from the persons whom leases were sanctioned.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Are the Government satisfied that on the lands leased out to parties for raising food crops, only food crops are raised or other commercial crops?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* No such instance has come to notice.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Have the Government enquired into it?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There was no occasion for enquiry. It has never come to the notice that it has been misused.

Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Is there any breach of that condition?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* It is true there is no case of any breach of that condition yet come to the notice of the Government.

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Mr. T. S. Ramachandra Ayyar *(Chittur-Tattamangalam):* Will the Government be pleased to kindly enquire into this?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* Yes.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* May I know, Sir, whether in the matter of granting leases preference has been given to the adjacent land owner or whether Government have given lands to all and sundry people who have no lands in the vicinity?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There is no such hard-and-fast rule. Such a thing will be looked into in the case of permanent assignment of lands. As it is, persons have encroached upon such lands and certainly, their cases had to be considered.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkaucheri):* May I know, Sir, whether such lands will not as far as possible be given to the persons in cultivation in contradistinction to the adjacent land owner. That is the principle that has to be followed after the one year's period which is allowed to the encroachers is over. Supposing he still continues after one year, then after the crop that is raised is removed and encroachment action is taken. May I know whether Government intend to take lands from the pattadars who are not cultivating lands.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* That is what I have been stating.

Mr. V. K. Bhaskara Menon *(Cranganur):* I want to know whether it is the policy of the Government to give preference to the adjacent land owner or to give lands to anybody who ask for them?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The policy is to give it to the actual cultivator. In giving leases for 3 years, if the adjacent land owner applies and we find that he will cultivate, certainly he will be given preference.

Mr. Joseph Petta *(Adur):* Do not Government think that such a policy will increase the concentration of lands in one man?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If the party is prepared to take the land and in case the giving of the land to anybody else will prejudice his interests, we have to take that matter into consideration.

Mr. K. S. Panicker *(Ezhuvas-Mukundapuram):* What is the object of leasing lands?

Mr. President: The object is to increase the food production.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* The suggestion in this question is this. After cultivating the land for one year, or 3 years, the land is improved. Government should not be a party to taking away the benefits of such work on the part of the poor agriculturists to their prejudice and to the benefit of the already fat man closeby. That should not be the policy of the Government.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas Kanayannur):* Moreover, there was an assurance that these lands will be given to the cultivators.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There was no such assurance.

Mr. President: No such assurance can be given, because those vacant lands are required for one thing for the cattle to graze. There is no intention to make it a permanent lease.

Rao Sahib K. Ayyappan *(Ezhuvas-Kanayannur):* If it is given to others, why not the preference be given to those who already cultivate it? If the Government wants it for other purposes, there is no harm in taking it.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the rule that when an assignment takes place the claim of the adjacent owners may be considered, is abrogated in the case of pattadars of lands who have been granted leases for raising food crops and who have been continuing in possession.

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* The man who has raised the food crops is allowed to take the crops and after that, if the adjacent owner applies and the giving of such leases is detrimental to his interests, that question is considered; but if it is not detrimental to his interests if it is given to a third party, that also will be considered.

Mr. A. B. Salem *(Mattancheri):* May I know whether the rule that the adjacent owner's claim must be considered when such assignments take place, has been abrogated in these cases? Is it the policy of the Government to abrogate that rule?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* If it will not work hardship to him, it will be abrogated.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancheri):* Is there any such rule?

Mr. A. Madhava Prabhu *(Diwan Peishkar):* There is no such rule. Where it is detrimental, it will be considered.

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